



Terry O'Quinn

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Terrance Quinn (born July 15, 1952), known professionally as **Terry O'Quinn**, is an American actor. He won a [Primetime Emmy Award](#) for his performance as [John Locke](#) on the TV series *[Lost](#)* (2004–2010). In film, he also played the title role in *[The Stepfather](#)* (1987) and [Howard Hughes](#) in *[The Rocketeer](#)* (1991) with roles in other films such as *[Heaven's Gate](#)* (1980), *[Silver Bullet](#)* (1985), *[Young Guns](#)* (1988), *[Blind Fury](#)* (1989), *[Tombstone](#)* (1993) and *[Primal Fear](#)* (1996).

Other prominent television roles include [Peter Watts](#) in *[Millennium](#)* (1996–1999), FBI Asst. Director Kendall in *[Alias](#)* (2002–2004), Commander Joe White in *[Hawaii Five-0](#)* (2011–2018), and Tom Tavner in *[Patriot](#)* (2015–2018).

Early life [\[edit\]](#)

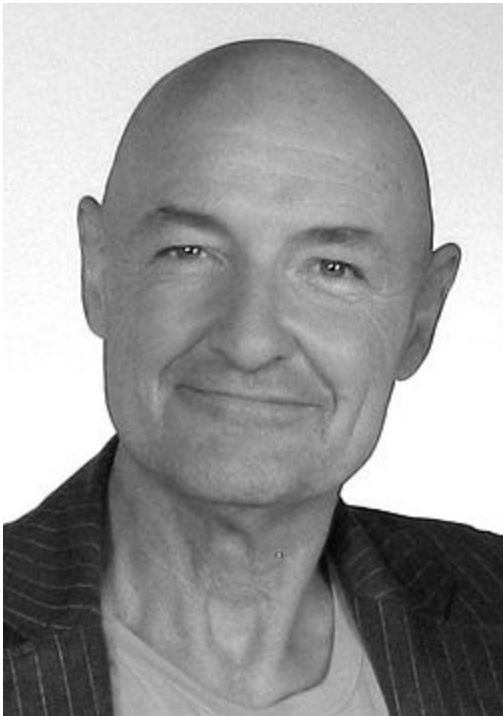
O'Quinn was born at War Memorial Hospital in [Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan](#), one of 11 siblings, and grew up in nearby [Newberry, Michigan](#). He is of [Irish](#) descent and was raised Catholic.^{[1][2]} He attended [Central Michigan University](#) in [Mount Pleasant, Michigan](#), and the [University of Iowa](#) in [Iowa City](#). He changed his surname from Quinn to O'Quinn as another registered actor already had the name Terrance Quinn.^[3]

In the 1970s, O'Quinn went to Baltimore to act in the [Center Stage](#) production of *[Tartuffe](#)*. He remained at Center Stage for several years and often appeared with the late Tana Hicken, most notably as Benedick to her [Beatrice](#) in *[Much Ado About Nothing](#)*. His first movie role was in *[Heaven's Gate](#)*.

Career [\[edit\]](#)

O'Quinn began acting in the 1970s during his time at [Central Michigan University](#). He not only was an actor but also playwright/director. He wrote and directed the musical *[Orchestrina](#)*. This musical featured five main

Terry O'Quinn



O'Quinn in 2008

Born	<div>Terrance Quinn</div> <div>July 15, 1952 (age 73)</div> <div>Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, U.S.</div>
Occupation	Actor
Years active	1975–present
Spouse	<div><div>Lori O'Quinn</div><div>(m. 1979; div. 2010)</div></div>
Children	2

characters: The Man (played by [Jeff Daniels](#)), The Boy (Harold Downs), The Woman (Ann O'Donnell), The Girl (Debbie Penwarden), and The Drunk (James Hilliker), plus a female and a male chorus. He was roommates at CMU with actor [Brad Slaight](#).^[4]

Starting in 1980, O'Quinn has appeared in various feature films such as *[Silver Bullet](#)*, *[Tombstone](#)*, *[Heaven's Gate](#)*, *[Young Guns](#)*, *[Ghosts of Mississippi](#)*, with [Rutger Hauer](#) in *[Blind Fury](#)*, and as Howard Hughes in *[The Rocketeer](#)*.

O'Quinn also appeared in the [Canadian horror movie](#), *[Pin](#)* (1988) alongside [British-born Canadian](#) actor, [David Hewlett](#).

His early [television](#) roles include guest appearances on *[Tales of the Unexpected](#)* (episode "In the Bag"), *[Miami Vice](#)* (episode "Give a Little, Take a Little"), *[Moonlighting](#)*, *[Star Trek: The Next Generation](#)* (episode "The Pegasus"), *[The Twilight Zone](#)* (1985 revival; episode "Chameleon"), *[Homicide: Life on the Street](#)* (episode "Hate Crimes"), a recurring role on *[Earth 2](#)*, another recurring role as Captain (later Rear Admiral) [Thomas Boone](#) on *[JAG](#)*, as well as Colonel Will Ryan in episode 15 of season 1 on the JAG spin-off series *[NCIS](#)* (episode "Enigma").

Around 1995, O'Quinn made guest appearances in *[The X-Files](#)* and *[Harsh Realm](#)*, produced by Chris Carter, who also cast him in the film *[The X-Files: Fight the Future](#)* and then once again in the final season. In 1996, O'Quinn started acting as Peter Watts in the television series *[Millennium](#)*, also produced by [Chris Carter](#). O'Quinn held this role for all three seasons of the series. O'Quinn holds the distinction of having played four different characters within the extended *X-Files/Millennium* [continuum](#) (the two shows being classed together since both [Lance Henriksen](#)'s character of [Frank Black](#) and [Charles Nelson Reilly](#)'s character of Jose Chung have appeared in both shows).^{[5][6]}

***The Stepfather* films** [\[edit \]](#)

Further information: *[The Stepfather \(1987 film\)](#)* and *[Stepfather II](#)*

O'Quinn made his breakthrough by starring as the title character in *The Stepfather*, a deranged serial killer going by the name "Jerry Blake" (his character's real name and identity are never revealed), who is obsessed with having an ideal family. When a widowed mother and daughter do not comply with his expectations, he spirals into a spell of madness and attempts to murder them. O'Quinn was praised by critics, including [Roger Ebert](#) in the *[Chicago Sun-Times](#)*, who commented, "*The Stepfather* has one wonderful element: Terry O'Quinn's performance."^[7] Ebert wrote, "He is a journeyman actor from TV and many movies, usually in supporting roles and you may or may not recognize him. What's clear at once is that he is a strong actor and given this leading role he brings all kinds of creepy dimensions to it. He has the thankless assignment of showing us a completely hateful, repellent character – and he approaches the task as an exercise in cloying middle-class good manners."^[7] O'Quinn was nominated for both a [Saturn Award](#) and an [Independent Spirit Award](#) for his performance. A sequel, *[Stepfather II](#)*, was released two years later, in which his character escapes from an insane asylum. It grossed almost a million dollars less at the box office.^{[8][9]} Not impressed with the second movie, O'Quinn declined to appear in its third installment, in which the stepfather character was portrayed by [Robert Wightman](#).

O'Quinn was approached by the director of the [2009 reboot](#) of *The Stepfather*, [Nelson McCormick](#), to make a cameo appearance in the film but according to the producers O'Quinn turned down the offer.^{[10][11]}

Lost [[edit](#)]

Further information: [John Locke \(Lost\)](#) and [Lost \(TV series\)](#)

After a string of recurring appearances on [Alias](#) (2002–2003), as the [FBI](#) Director [Kendall](#), O'Quinn became a favorite of television producer [J. J. Abrams](#). Following a seven-episode guest run on *[The West Wing](#)* in 2003–2004, O'Quinn received a call from Abrams indicating that the producer wanted to cast him in his new television drama *Lost* without any audition. In 2005, O'Quinn received an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama for his work as John Locke on the series *Lost*. O'Quinn admitted on the [TV Guide Channel](#) that he did not have much faith in *Lost* at first, calling it "[The Mysterious Gilligan's Island of Dr. Moreau](#)".^[12] The show, however, became one of the most popular on television, and on September 16, 2007, he won an [Emmy Award](#) for [Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series](#) for his role, and was nominated again for an Emmy for the role in 2010, which he did not win. In a *[TV.com](#)* interview O'Quinn commented that the reason he felt comfortable playing this character is because he's a bit like him.^[13]

2010–present [[edit](#)]

O'Quinn has made a number of television appearances since *Lost*. From 2012 to 2013, O'Quinn starred in the short-lived series [666 Park Avenue](#) as Gavin Doran. In 2012, he appeared in the second season of *[Falling Skies](#)*.^[14] Additionally, O'Quinn starred for two seasons in Amazon Studios' *[Patriot](#)*.

In 2016, it was announced that O'Quinn would be joining the second season of *[Secret and Lies](#)*.^[15] In 2019, O'Quinn starred in the only season of *[Perpetual Grace, LTD](#)* on Epix.

In February 2021, it was announced that O'Quinn was cast as Martin Queller in the [Netflix](#) thriller series *[Pieces of Her](#)*, which is adapted from the [Karin Slaughter novel of the same name](#).^[16]

In October 2023, during New York Comic Con, it was announced that he would play the antagonist Major General Beale in *[The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live](#)*, created by [Scott M. Gimple](#).

Terry joined the [Cameo platform](#) shortly after its launch in 2017. He has since been creating videos for fans and donating all of the proceeds to the [Virginia Beach SPCA](#) . Terry has raised thousands of dollars on Cameo, and continues to create videos weekly.^[17]

Filmography [[edit](#)]

Film [[edit](#)]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1980	<i>Heaven's Gate</i>	Capt. Minardi	
1983	<i>All the Right Moves</i>	Freeman Smith	

	<i>Without a Trace</i>	Parent	
1984	<i>Places in the Heart</i>	Buddy Kelsey	
	<i>Mrs. Soffel</i>	Detective Buck McGovern	
1985	<i>Silver Bullet</i>	Sheriff Joe Haller	
	<i>Mischief</i>	Claude Harbrough	
1986	<i>SpaceCamp</i>	Launch Director	
1987	<i>The Stepfather</i>	Jerry Blake / Henry Morrison / Bill Hodgkins / The Stepfather	Nominated— Independent Spirit Award for Best Male Lead Nominated— National Society of Film Critics Award for Best Actor Nominated— Saturn Award for Best Actor
	<i>Black Widow</i>	Bruce	
1988	<i>Young Guns</i>	Alex McSween	
	<i>Pin</i>	Dr. Linden	
1989	<i>Blind Fury</i>	Frank Deveraux	
	<i>Stepfather II</i>	Jerry Blake / Dr. Gene Clifford / The Stepfather	
	<i>The Forgotten One</i>	Bob Anderson	
1990	<i>Blood Oath</i>	Major Beckett	
1991	<i>The Rocketeer</i>	Howard Hughes	
	<i>Company Business</i>	Colonel Pierce Grissom	
1992	<i>The Cutting Edge</i>	Jack Moseley	
	<i>My Samurai</i>	James McCrea	
1993	<i>Tombstone</i>	Mayor John Clum	
	<i>Amityville: A New Generation</i>	Detective Clark	Direct-to-video
1995	<i>Shadow Warriors</i>	Dr. Connors	
1996	<i>Ghosts of Mississippi</i>	Judge Hilburn	
	<i>Primal Fear</i>	Bud Yancy	
1997	<i>Shadow Conspiracy</i>	Frank Ridell	
1998	<i>The X-Files</i>	Darius Michaud	
2000	<i>Rated X</i>	J.R. Mitchell	

2001	<i>American Outlaws</i>	Rollin H. Parker	
2002	<i>Hometown Legend</i>	Buster Shuler	
2003	<i>Old School</i>	Goldberg	Uncredited
2016	<i>New Life</i>	Dr. Sumrall	
2024	<i>Unsung Hero</i>	Grandpa James	

Television [[edit](#)]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1980	<i>F.D.R.: The Last Year</i>	James Roosevelt	Television
1981	<i>The Doctors</i>	Dr. Jerry Dancy	Soap opera
1982	<i>Tales of the Unexpected</i>	Cop	Episode: "In the Bag"
1983	<i>Jacobo Timerman: Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number</i>	Colonel Thomas Rhodes	Television film
	<i>ABC Afterschool Special</i>	Mr. Jacobs	Episode: "The Hand Me Down Kid"
1984	<i>Miami Vice</i>	Richard Cain	Episode: "Give a Little, Take a Little"
1985	<i>The Twilight Zone</i>	Dr. Curt Lockridge	Episode: " Chameleon "
	<i>Right to Kill?</i>	Jim Barrett	Television film
	<i>An Early Frost</i>	Dr. Redding	Television film
	<i>Remington Steele</i>	Chuck McBride	Episode: "Coffee, Tea or Steele"
1986	<i>Between Two Women</i>	Dr. Wallace	Television film
	<i>Women of Valor</i>	Major Tom Patterson	Television film
1987	<i>Moonlighting</i>	Bryant Wilbourne	Episode: "Take a Left At the Altar"
	<i>At Mother's Request</i>	Jeol Campbell	2 episodes
	<i>When the Time Comes</i>	Wes Travis	Television film
1988	<i>Stranger on My Land</i>	Connie Priest	Television film
	<i>A Year in the Life</i>	Keith	Episode: "Fathers and Other Strangers"
1989	<i>Guts and Glory: The Rise and Fall of Oliver North</i>	Aaron Sykes	2 episodes
	<i>Roe vs. Wade</i>	Jay Floyd	Television film
1990	<i>Jake and the Fatman</i>	Vincent Novak	Episode: "You're Driving Me Crazy"

	<i>Perry Mason: The Case of the Desperate Deception</i>	Curt Mitchell	Television film
	<i>Kaleidoscope</i>	Henry	Television film
1991	<i>Son of the Morning Star</i>	General Alfred Terry	2 episodes
	<i>The Last to Go</i>	Daniel	Television film
	<i>Shoot First: A Cop's Vengeance</i>	Sergeant Nicholas	Television film
1992	<i>Deliver Them from Evil: The Taking of Alta View</i>	Sergeant Don Bell	Television film
	<i>Trial: The Price of Passion</i>	Bob Altschuler	Television film
	<i>L.A. Law</i>	Nick Moats	Episode: "Beauty and the Breast"
	<i>Sexual Advances</i>	Cliff Ripley	Television film
	<i>Wild Card</i>	Barlow	Television film
	<i>The Good Fight</i>	Henry Cragin	Television film
1993	<i>Born Too Soon</i>	Dr. Friedman	Television film
	<i>Visions of Murder</i>	Admiral Truman Hager	Television film
1994	<i>A Friend to Die For</i>	Principal Ed Saxe	Television film
	<i>MacShayne: Winner Takes All</i>	Danny Legget	Television film
	<i>Star Trek: The Next Generation</i>	Admiral Erik Pressman	Episode: " The Pegasus "
	<i>Heart of a Child</i>	Gordon Holc	Television film
	<i>Don't Talk to Strangers</i>	Bonner	Television film
	<i>Justice in a Small Town</i>	Harris Wiley	Television film
	<i>Tales from the Crypt</i>	Inspector Martin Zeller	Episode: "The Bribe"
	<i>Matlock</i>	Malcolm Engle	Episode: "The Dare"
1994–1995	<i>Earth 2</i>	Reilly	6 episodes
1995	<i>The X-Files</i>	Lt. Brian Tillman	Episode: " Aubrey "
	<i>Ray Alexander: A Menu for Murder</i>	Frank Darnell	Television film
	<i>The Client</i>	Bert Halliwell	Episode: "Pilot"

	<i>Homicide: Life on the Street</i>	Bailey Lafeld	Episode: "Hate Crimes"
1995–2002	<i>JAG</i>	Capt./RAdm. Thomas Boone	10 episodes
1996	<i>Diagnosis: Murder</i>	Dr. Ronald Trent	Episode: "The Murder Trade"
1996–1999	<i>Millennium</i>	Peter Watts	41 episodes
1997	<i>My Stepson, My Lover</i>	Richard Cory	Television film
	<i>On the Edge of Innocence</i>	David Walker	Television film
	<i>Breast Men</i>	Hersch Lawyer	Television film
1999	<i>Murder in a Small Town</i>	Sidney Lassiter	Television film
1999–2000	<i>Harsh Realm</i>	General Omar Santiago	9 episodes
2001	<i>Roswell</i>	Carl	Episode: "Michael, the Guys, and the Great Snapple Caper"
	<i>Semper Fi</i>	Cliff's Father	Pilot
	<i>WW3</i>	Eric Farrell	Television film
2002	<i>The X-Files</i>	Shadow Man	Episode: " Trust No 1 "
	<i>The Locket</i>	Casey Keddington	Television film
	<i>First Monday</i>	Sheriff Carl Richards	Episode: "Strip Search"
2002–2004	<i>Alias</i>	FBI Asst. Director Kendall	18 episodes
2003	<i>Phenomenon II</i>	Military Officer Jack Hatch	Television film
2003–2004	<i>The West Wing</i>	General Nicholas Alexander	7 episodes
2004	<i>NCIS</i>	Col. Will Ryan	Episode: "Enigma"
	<i>Law & Order: Criminal Intent</i>	Gordon Buchanan	Episode: "Mis-Labeled"
2004–2010	<i>Lost</i>	John Locke / The Man in Black	101 episodes Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actor on Television Screen Actors Guild Award for

			Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series Nominated— Golden Nymph Award for Outstanding Actor – Drama Series (2007, 2009–11) Nominated— Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series (2005, 2010) Nominated— Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actor on Television (2006, 2008, 2011) Nominated— Teen Choice Award for Choice TV: Villain
2007	<i>Masters of Science Fiction</i>	Major Albert Skynner	Episode: "The Awakening"
2011	<i>Taken from Me: The Tiffany Rubin Story</i>	Mark Miller	Television film
	<i>Hallelujah</i>	Del Roman	Pilot
2011–2018	<i>Hawaii Five-0</i>	Commander Joe White	16 episodes
2012	<i>Ring of Fire</i>	Oliver Booth	2 episodes
2012–2013	<i>Falling Skies</i>	Arthur Manchester	3 episodes Nominated— Saturn Award for Best Guest Starring Role on Television
2012	<i>666 Park Avenue</i>	Gavin Doran	13 episodes
2014	<i>Gang Related</i>	Sam Chapel	12 episodes
	<i>Phineas and Ferb</i>	Professor Mystery (voice)	Episode: "Lost in Danville"
2015	<i>The Adversaries</i>	Charlie	Pilot
	<i>Full Circle</i>	Jimmy Parerra	6 episodes
2015–2018	<i>Patriot</i>	Tom Tavner	18 episodes
2016	<i>Secrets and Lies</i>	John Warner	7 episodes
2017	<i>The Blacklist</i>	Howard Hargrave	Episode: "Isabella Stone (No. 34)"; uncredited
	<i>The Blacklist: Redemption</i>	Howard Hargrave	7 episodes

	<i>Mysteries of the Missing</i> ^[18]	Himself (host)	8 episodes
2018	<i>Castle Rock</i> ^[19]	Dale Lacy	4 episodes
2019	<i>Perpetual Grace, LTD</i>	Texas Ranger Wesley Walker	10 episodes
	<i>Emergence</i>	Richard Kindred	5 episodes
2020–2022	<i>FBI: Most Wanted</i>	Byron LaCroix	9 episodes
2021–2025	<i>Resident Alien</i>	Peter Bach	13 episodes
2021	<i>Ultra City Smiths</i>	Captain Krieger (voice)	6 episodes
	<i>Christmas Sail</i>	Dennis	Television film
2022	<i>Pieces of Her</i>	Martin Queller	6 episodes
2024	<i>The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live</i>	Johnathan Beale	3 episodes

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External links

[edit]

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